

Attorney Docket No. 01197/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. MORISHITA et al

Serial No. :

Filed : Herewith

For : METHOD OF MANUFACTURING
GLASS PARTS FOR
CONNECTING OPTICAL
FIBERS, AND GLASS...

Art Unit :

Examiner :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

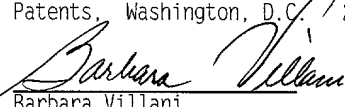
Please substitute the following amended claim 6 for the
original claim 6:

6. (amended) A glass part for connecting optical fibers
manufactured using the method claimed in claim 1, wherein said
glass part has open ends, and wherein at least one of the open
ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is
a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least
one of the open ends and said internal hole.

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Barbara Villani

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Please add the following new claims:

--7. A glass part for connecting optical fibers manufactured using the method claimed in claim 2, wherein said glass part has open ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole.

8. A glass part for connecting optical fibers manufactured using the method claimed in claim 2, wherein said glass part has open ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole. --

R E M A R K S

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a clean copy of amended claim 6 is set forth in the present Amendment, and a marked-up version of the amended claim 6 is attached hereto.

The amendment is being made to eliminate the multiple dependency of claim 6.

Respectfully submitted,



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What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers, comprising heating
 5 predetermined parts of a glass tube having an internal hole while applying pressure into said internal hole, to expand said predetermined parts, thus forming tapered portions.
2. A method of manufacturing glass parts for
 10 connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while restricting an increase in an outside diameter of said glass tube.
3. A method of manufacturing glass parts for
 15 connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while drawing said glass tube in a longitudinal axial direction
 20 thereof.
4. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising cutting each of the predetermined parts of
 25 said glass tube to obtain an open end in which one of said tapered portions is formed, after the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole.
5. A method of manufacturing glass parts for connecting optical fibers as claimed in claim 2, wherein
 30 the heating of said glass tube and the application of pressure into said internal hole are carried out while said glass tube is placed in a frame.
6. A glass part for connecting optical fibers
 35 manufactured using the method claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 through 3~~, wherein said glass part has open
 claim 1

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ends, and wherein at least one of the open ends of said glass part is tapered in such a manner that there is a continuous curved surface at a boundary between the at least one of the open ends and said internal hole.

New claims 7 + 8 added.

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